By: Phillips   H.B. No. 2722

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2722:

By: Laubenberg   C.S.H.B. No. 2722

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to early voting by certain persons who have an employment

3 hardship.

4   BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5   SECTION 1.   Subtitle B, Title 7, Election Code, is amended by

6 adding Chapter 107 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 107. EARLY VOTING BY PERSON IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCE

8   Sec. 107.001. APPLICABILITY. This chapter applies only to

9 a voter:

10   (1)   who is eligible to vote in this state; and

11   (2)   whose occupation causes a hardship for the voter:

12   (A)   that prevents the voter from knowing whether

13 the voter is able to appear at the polling place on election day or

14 during the regular hours for conducting early voting without

15 causing a disruption in the operations of the voter's employment;

16 or

17   (B)   because the occupation is of a nature that

18 causes the voter to be working periodically offshore.

19   Sec. 107.002.   FORM AND CONTENTS OF APPLICATION. (a)   The

20 secretary of state shall prescribe a unique application for a

21 ballot to be voted under this chapter that must include, in addition

22 to the information required by the applicable provisions of Section

23 84.002:

24   (1)   an affidavit certifying the applicant is employed

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1 in an occupation that causes a hardship for voting, signed by the

2 applicant and the applicant's employer or contracting entity; and

3   (2) the address of the applicant's employer or of a

4 person related to the applicant within the second degree by

5 affinity or the third degree by consanguinity, as determined under

6 Chapter 573, Government Code, if that address is different from the

7 address at which the applicant is registered to vote.

8   (b) The application must be submitted to the early voting

9 clerk not later than the 60th day before election day for the

10 applicant to be eligible to vote a ballot under this chapter.

11   Sec. 107.003. VOTING PROCEDURE; PROCESSING RESULTS. (a)

12 On submission of an application under this chapter to the early

13 voting clerk, the clerk shall review the application and verify the

14 applicant's registration status in accordance with the procedure

15 applicable to early voting by mail.

16   (b) The voting shall be conducted with the balloting

17 materials for early voting by mail.

18   (c) The address to which the balloting materials must be

19 addressed is the address at which the voter is registered to vote or

20 the address of the applicant's employer or of a person related to

21 the applicant within the second degree by affinity or the third

22 degree by consanguinity, as determined under Chapter 573,

23 Government Code.

24   (d) The voter must mark and seal the ballot in the same

25 manner as if early voting by mail.

26   (e) The results shall be processed in accordance with the

27 procedures applicable to processing early voting ballots voted by

2

1 mail.

2   (f) Section 86.0015 applies to an application for a ballot

3 to be voted under this chapter, notwithstanding Section 86.0015(a).

4   Sec. 107.004. RULES. The secretary of state shall adopt

5 rules to implement this chapter.

6   SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.